

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Wedge at 6:10 PM, and the following members were present:

Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Chair	Mrs. Terri Cortvriend, Clerk	Mrs. Marge Levesque
Mr. Richard Carpender, V. Chair	Mr. Jamie Heaney	Mr. Michael Buddemeyer

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Asst. Supt. Jermain; Ms. Christine Tague, Mrs. Patti Cofield, Mrs. Carroll Feather, and Ms. Michelle Beaulieu

Absent: Mr. Douglas Wilkey

A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mr. Heaney to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exception (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. So voted 6-0.

Public Session recessed at 6:11 PM and resumed at 6:50 PM.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Ms. Wedge announced that an Executive Session was held prior to this meeting, and no votes were taken.
2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** No report.
3. **BUSINESS AGENDA**
 - a) **Ratiofication of NEA Contract.** Mr. Carpender made a motion to ratify the 2008-09 contract with NEA Portsmouth as presented. Seconded by Marge Levesque. So voted 6-0. Mr. Carpender reported that the Negotiations Subcommittee met in Executive Session last night. A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and seconded by Mr. Heaney to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exception (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. So voted 3-0. A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and seconded by Mr. Heaney to TA the 1-year contract extension with NEA Portsmouth. So voted 3-0. A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and seconded by Mr. Heaney to seal the minutes. So voted 3-0. A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and seconded by Mr. Heaney to adjourn the meeting. So voted 3-0.

Mr. Carpender thanked Mrs. Carroll Feather, President of NEA Portsmouth, and Ms. Michelle Beaulieu, Vice President of NEA Portsmouth, for their cordial and respectful manner during negotiations. He stated that the negotiation process was informal, and they did not use attorneys or a business official. He thanked Mrs. Levesque and Mr. Heaney for their advice during the process.

Mr. Carpender explained that the agreement is for a 1-year roll over to the contract. The three mutual areas of concern were salary, the length of school day arbitration, and life insurance. He stated that he and Mrs. Feather entered into a handshake agreement that will allow the School Committee and NEA Portsmouth to address the next contract in October or early November. He felt that this was very cordial, and he thanked the Union for their approach to these negotiations.

Dr. Lusi thanked Mrs. Feather, Ms. Beaulieu, and their negotiating team; and she stated that a 1-year agreement was advantageous at this time for everyone. She reviewed the details of the handouts that were distributed to the Committee and public, which included the highlights and cost implications of the contract. The step increases will be frozen at the current contractual levels. The teachers will receive a step increase but no additional increase. The top step teachers will receive an increase of 3.1 percent. The length of school day arbitration, with potential cost of \$450,000 to \$500,000, was withdrawn in exchange for a 1-year concession on mandatory professional development and time off. The language on life insurance was clarified to preclude payment of life insurance for retirees, and legal costs were avoided in exchange for an increase in face value of the life insurance policy.

Mrs. Feather stated that the teachers overwhelmingly approved this 1-year extension. They dealt with a financial picture that was very grim in a realistic way so that both the Union and the Administration were satisfied. She thanked everyone for everything they did to have the contract settled in March.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mr. Heaney. So voted 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for

Terri Cortvriend, Clerk